

**Abstract**

Described are novel antibodies specifically recognizing a distinct population of human dendritic cells (DCs) and methods of isolating the DCs using the antibodies. More specifically the antibodies bind to an epitope on human DCs displaying one or more surface markers of both immature and mature human DCs. Described is further a method for isolating or identifying DCs as defined above as well as DCs obtainable by the method and/or characterized by recognition of the above-described antibody. In addition kits, and compositions, preferably pharmaceutical and diagnostic compositions are provided comprising any of the aforedecribed antibodies.